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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/735,537

12/14/2000

Alan F. Graves

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7590

11/26/2003

DOWELL & DOWELL PC

SUITE 309

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EXAMINER

PAYNE, DAVID C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,537

Applicant(s)

GRAVES ET AL.

Examiner

David C. Payne

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Election/Restrictions***

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Claims 1, 15, 20-24 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising

Species A) Figure 3

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species B) Figure 12

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species C) Figure 12a

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species D) Figure 14

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species E) Figure 14A

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species F) Figure 15

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species G) Figure 15A

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species H) Figure 16

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Species I) Figure 16A

*Subspecies drawn to front end*

Subspecies 1) figure 4

Subspecies 2) figure 8

Subspecies 3) figure 9

Subspecies 4) figure 10

Subspecies 5) figure 11

*Subspecies drawn to the connection verification system*

Subspecies 6) figure 5

Subspecies 7) the figure drawn to claim 8

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such

evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

2. The applicant **MUST** elect one of the species (I.E. **one** of species A-I). He must further elect one of each subspecies (must elect one of subspecies 1-5 AND one of subspecies 6-7). For example, the applicant would state, " I elect species A and further subspecies 1 related to the front end, and subspecies 7 related to the connection verification system. Claims 1 ... 8...(and all other claims that read on the species with both subspecies)... read on this election". In the case that either species B or C are elected (figures 12 or 12A), the applicant need only elect one of subspecies 6 or 7 since only one front end is disclosed with figures 12.
3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the



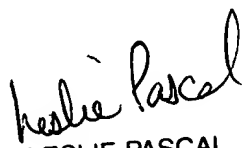
application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Payne whose telephone number is (703) 306-0004. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7a-4p.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (703) 305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Dcp

  
LESLIE PASCAL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER